WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

24	1. A method for increasing transfer quality on a content distribution
CA.	system, the distribution system comprising a requestor and a selector, the method
3	comprising:
4	determining a first transfer quality factor relating the requestor and a first
5	source, the first source identified by a first identifier;
6	determining a second transfer quality factor relating the requestor and a
7	second source, the second source identified by a second identifier;
8	providing a preference to the selector, wherein the preference is based on
9	the first and second transfer quality factors, the preference comprising at least one of the
10	first and second identifiers; and
11	the selector selecting a source for the requestor based on the preference.
1	2. The method for increasing transfer quality on a content distribution
2	system, the distribution system comprising a requestor and a selector, according to claim
3	1, the method further comprising:
4	identifying the first and the second sources.
1	3. The method for increasing transfer quality on a content distribution
2	system, the distribution system comprising a requestor and a selector, according to claim
3	1, the method further comprising:
4	providing the first and the second identifiers to the requestor.
1	4. The method for increasing transfer quality on a content distribution
2	system, the distribution system comprising a requestor and a selector, according to claim
3	1, wherein the determining a first transfer quality factor includes performing a plurality of
4	tests.
1	5. The method for increasing transfer quality on a content distribution
2	system, the distribution system comprising a requestor and a selector, according to claim
3	4, the method further comprising:
4	using a weighting function to weight the plurality of tests to determine the
5	first transfer quality factor.

C/2 3

3

4

6. The method for increasing transfer quality on a content distribution system, the distribution system comprising a requestor and a selector, according to claim 5, wherein the weighting function is defined by a user.

3 / >1

7. The method for increasing transfer quality on a content distribution system, the distribution system comprising a requestor and a selector, according to claim 1, wherein the selected source is a transfer node, whereby the transfer node comprises a content object transferred from an originating source and made available to the requestor.

Gul.

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

3

4

5

1

2

3

8. The method for increasing transfer quality on a content distribution system, the distribution system comprising a requestor and a selector, according to claim 1, the method further comprising:

displaying the preference to a user.

ا مهد /

9. A method for allowing a requestor to guide selection of a content object source, the method comprising:

identifying a first and a second source;

analyzing transfer quality between the requestor and the first source, and between the requestor and the second source;

ranking the first and the second sources based on the analyzed transfer qualities; and

using the ranking to guide selection of the content object source, whereby the selected content object source is one of the first source, the second source, or a third source.

obje

10. The method for allowing a requestor to guide selection of a content object source, according to claim 9, wherein using the ranking comprises:

transferring the ranking to a selector, the selector selecting the content object source partially based on the ranking, and the selector indicating the selected content object source to the requestor.

11. The method for allowing a requestor to guide selection of a content object source, according to claim 9, wherein the analyzing transfer quality includes performing a plurality of tests.



12. The method for allowing a requestor to guide selection of a content object source, according to claim & wherein the analyzing transfer quality includes performing at least one of traceroute, test via file transfer, server health check, server load

4 check, ping, path difference, BGP routing information, or port response time.

2 Vol. 3 Vol. 3

1

2

3

1 2

3

4

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

13. The method for allowing a requestor to guide selection of a content bject source, according to claim 9, the method further comprising:

requesting a content object from the selected content object source; and receiving the content object.

- 14. The method for allowing a requestor to guide selection of a content object source, according to claim 13, wherein the receiving the content object includes pre-fetching a portion the content object.
- 15. The method for allowing a requestor to guide selection of a content object source, according to claim 13, wherein the receiving the content object includes at least one of: decompressing the content object, decrypting the content object, or performing a security check of the content object.
- 16. A method for supplying a content object from a content object source to a client via a transfer node, selection of the transfer node being influenced by a client preference, the method comprising:

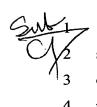
identifying a first and a second transfer node to the client;

ranking the first and second transfer nodes by the client, the ranking forming a client preference;

selecting one of the first or second transfer nodes based on the client preference; and

requesting transfer of a content object from the selected transfer node.

17. The method for supplying a content object from a content object source to a client via a transfer node, selection of the transfer node being influenced by a client preference, according to claim 16, wherein the client preference is created by analysis of a transfer quality between the client and the first transfer node and between the client and the second transfer node.



1

2

3

4

18. The method for supplying a content object from a content object source to a client via a transfer node, selection of the transfer node being influenced by a client preference, according to claim 17, wherein the analysis of transfer quality includes performing at least two tests.

- 19. The method for supplying a content object from a content object source to a client via a transfer node, selection of the transfer node being influenced by a client preference, according to claim 16, wherein the selected transfer node is the content object source.
- The method for supplying a content object from a content object source to a client via a transfer node, selection of the transfer node being influenced by a client preference, according to claim 16, wherein the selecting one of the first or second transfer nodes is done by a third transfer node.

